

Karen's knowledge on State and Federal policy issues is far reaching. She has always been extremely helpful to everyone in the Florida Congressional delegation and she will be dearly missed by all Members and staff.

Karen is a former resident of Palm Beach County, Florida, and is the mother of five children—Christina Kuminski, Richard Crane, Cathy Schwink, Wendy Daniels and Patrick Hogan—and grandmother of eight grandchildren—Alyssa, Keith and Jonathan Kuminski, Ryan Crane, Taylor, Alex and Spencer Schwink, and Carter Daniels. Karen is active in her church and bible study. I have no doubt that Karen will be looking forward to spending more time gardening, a hobby which she loves dearly. If you ask her, Karen would probably say that she isn't retiring, that she's just moving on to the next phase in her life.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Florida Congressional delegation, I wish Karen Hogan all the best in her next phase of life.

TRIBUTE TO THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SGT. STANLEY F. ROMANOWSKI POST 6896 OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge the 60th Anniversary of the Sgt. Stanley F. Romanowski Post 6896 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Westland, Michigan.

On May 12, 1946, the founding members instituted this Post in the Gymnasium of Munger Intermediate School and dedicated its mission to serving the citizens of Wayne County, Michigan. Named after Sgt. Stanley F. Romanowski, a decorated soldier of World War II who gave his life for his country, the Romanowski Post 6896 courageously pays tribute to the deceased by helping the living.

Each year, the 6896 members of the Romanowski Post 6896 launch charitable initiatives to assist the needy, aid the ill, support the students, and recognize the educators of our community. Among the many notable programs, these veterans host the Christmas Needy Basket Program, which provides food for underprivileged families; a Muscular Dystrophy Drive; a Diabetes Drive; a Cancer Drive; a \$50,000 scholarship fund for students; and a Teacher of the Year program.

In memory of Sgt. Romanowski's birthday, members hold an annual December memorial service in remembrance of United States fallen veterans. This summer, the Romanowski Post 6896 will also hold the first monthly memorial service at Westland City Hall dedicated to Prisoners of War, Soldiers Missing in Action, Blue Star Mothers, and Gold Star Mothers. These deeds serve as a constant reminder, to ensure that the bravery of our soldiers, the fragility of our needy, and the heroism of our fallen will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of their exemplary love for the United States and our citizens, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending these veterans for their bravery and in thanking the Romanowski Post 6896 for 60 years of loyal and unrelenting service to our community and our country.

INTRODUCTION OF IRANIAN BAHÁ'Í RESOLUTION

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing a resolution with Congressman TOM LANTOS (D-CA) condemning the repression of the Iranian Bahá'í community. This concurrent resolution exposes the Iranian Government's persecution of the Bahá'ís and calls on Iran to ensure that all of its religious minorities, including the Bahá'ís, are treated in accordance with the basic human rights to which each person is entitled.

The North American Bahá'í Temple is in my district, and the persecution against the Bahá'ís in Iran has been a longstanding concern of mine. This concurrent resolution brings the House of Representatives' attention to the latest action of the Iranian Government against the 350,000-member Bahá'í community of Iran.

On March 20, 2006, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief revealed the existence of a confidential letter by the Chairman of the Command Headquarters of Iran's Armed Services to Iran's intelligence services, military and police forces. In this letter, the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, instructed the Command Headquarters to identify all Iranian Bahá'ís and collect any and all information about their activities.

The Anti-Defamation League recently compared the secret letter to "the steps taken against Jews in Europe" in the 1930s.

This directive is unacceptable. Yet the secret order did not occur in isolation. Over the past 18 months, Iranian security forces have been imprisoning Bahá'ís without charges and Bahá'í youth in Iran have been denied access to universities. I understand that since October 2005, there has been a campaign of vilification against Bahá'ís in Kayhan, the government-sponsored press.

The Concurrent Resolution I introduce today calls on the Government of Iran to cease its practice of monitoring the Bahá'ís, to allow them to practice their religion and to emancipate fully their religious community. I want to thank my good friend Congressman TOM LANTOS for being the lead co-sponsor of this legislation. I look forward to working with him and my other colleagues on this important human rights initiative.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES ANTHONY CURTIS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Charles Anthony Curtis, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 8, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Charles has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the

many years Charles has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Charles Anthony Curtis for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

THE QUALITY INN HOTEL—A "SAFETY TO HURRICANE VOLUNTEERS"

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute those individuals and organizations that opened their hearts and dedicated both financial and emotional support to the evacuees of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. All of the States along the Gulf Coast have endured terrible hardships during last year's hurricane season, and I know that the generosity of North Texans played a vital role in bringing some peace into their lives.

Today I want to specifically thank three individuals and one company for their contributions. Viral Thakkar, Cara Hensley, and Joe Leising from The Quality Inn Hotel generously provided hotel rooms for some of the first evacuees traveling to Denton, Texas, in my congressional district, after the storms. For weeks after the event, the hotel's more than one-hundred rooms remained at capacity.

In the nine-month duration of the Quality Inn Hotel's efforts, they housed more than 800 evacuees. In addition, the Quality Inn worked with the City of Denton to help transition 27 families staying at the hotel into semi-permanent housing, and hosted a number of community and holiday events for evacuees and families.

I stand here today to sincerely thank Viral Thakkar, Cara Hensley, and Joe Leising from the Quality Inn Hotel for their gracious contributions. I am proud to call these people fellow Texans. Through their contribution, they not only stand as devoted and giving American citizens, but they serve as an inspiration to others.

HONORING PAUL VI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL'S GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM'S STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the Paul VI Catholic High School's Girls Cross Country Team, who won the 2005 Washington Catholic Athletic Conference (WCAC) Championship, the Virginia State Catholic Championship, and the Virginia Independent Schools (VIS) Cross Country Championship by defeating 40 other schools and their 230 long distance athletes.

The Paul VI Panthers, from Fairfax County, completed the 2005 season with the first triple